Library

Atherstone
Rural District Council

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1954.

Atherstone
Rural District Council

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1954.

ATHERSTONE :
ATHERSTONE NEWS PRESS, LONG STREET.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2016 with funding from
Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b2881440x

GEOGRAPHICAL SITUATION OF THE DISTRICT

The Rural District of Atherstone lies practically in the centre of England in the northern part of the County of Warwickshire. High ground rises to the west forming a lovely range of hills in places about 500 feet in height.

The busy trunk road known at Watling Street (A5) passes through the town of Atherstone and the middle of the rural district, as also does the main London-Crewe railway line.

Atherstone is of great antiquity. Indisputable evidence of Roman association has been discovered from time to time. At the begnning of Norman times Atherstone appears to have been well established, and was entered in the Domesday book as Aderstone.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND OCCUPATIONS

The interests of Atherstone have always been industrial, commercial and agricultural. Coal mining and hat manufacturing are the principal industries, whilst there are also brick, pipe and tile works, engineering works and other minor industries. Splendid opportunities exist for the introduction of new as well as the extension of some of the industries.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman :

Councillor E. BOND.

Viee-Chairman :

Councillor W. A. BROWN.

Councillors :

Mrs. D. M. Phillips, Mrs. C. Rose, Mr. J. Sanders, Mr. W. Atkins, Mr. N. W .Blower, Mr. G. S. Collins, Mr. E. Dingley, Rev. Bracebridge L. Hall, Mr. W. H. Knight, Mr. T. H. Lea, Mr. P. J. Luby, Mr. J. F. McCarthy, Mr. R. Mellor, Mr. R. C. Middleton, Mr. A. Morris, Mr. A. L. Standley.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health :

J. H. BRISCOE-SMITH, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S, L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health :

L. S. STEPHENS,, M.B., Ch.B., D. R.C.O.G., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendant:

S. B. ACTON, M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

R. A. MARGOSCHIS, M.S.I.A.

Clerk/Pupils in Health Department:

CARL F. KEMPER.

(Released H. M. Forces, October, 1953, resigned July, 1954).

JOHN VERTIGAN.

(H. M. Forces, June, 1953).

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
ATHERSTONE.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
ATHERSTONE, AUGUST, 1954.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE ATHERSTONE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my annual report for the year ending 31st December, 1954.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

The fall which followed the birth rate bulge of the middle and late forties, and which continued until 1952, appears to have been halted and during 1953 and 1954 there has been a slight increase in the birth rate. This may well be due in part to the introduction into the district in the last few years of additional personnel for the mining industry, the majority of whom are young adults. It is also to be expected as a result of the re-housing programme of the Authority, which has enabled a considerable number of young couples to set up homes of their own for the first time.

The corrected death rate in 1954 was 10.2 as compared with 12 in 1953. This compares favourably with the rate of England and Wales for 1954, which was 11.3 and with that for the whole of Warwickshire, which was 10.5.

Infant deaths declined from 16 in 1953 to 7 in 1954, giving an infant mortality rate of 16.5 for the year. This is the lowest infant mortality rate ever recorded in the rural district and is well below that for England and Wales (25.5) and for the whole of Warwickshire (31.9). While it must be a matter of great satisfaction that less infants died during 1954 than in any previous year for which records are available, care must be exercised in drawing conclusions from the infant mortality rate alone. Infants may die from a number of causes; some, such as infection and birth injury, can often be prevented, but others, such as prematurity, atelectasis and congenital malformations, are not preventable at present since we do not yet know the factors which give rise to them. In 1953 four infants died as a result of prematurity, two as a result of atelectasis and five as a result of congenital malformations. In 1954 three infants died as a result of congenital malformations. When these deaths are subtracted from the totals we find that infants dying from causes which may be regarded as preventable amount to five in 1953 and four in 1954, a much smaller proportional decrease, and one more in keeping with the gradual decline in the infant mortality rate over the past twelve years as shown in the Table on Page 10.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The incidence of scarlet fever during the year was about the expected average for a year in which there were no severe outbreaks and the disease was generally mild in character. Measles, of which there were 66 cases, was less prevalent than it has been since 1949. There were no cases of poliomyelitis or diphtheria. Diphtheria has become a comparatively rare disease as a result of immunisation. It is hoped that immunisation against Whooping Cough will have the effect of reducing the incidence of this disease also. Sixteen cases were notified during 1954, which was less than the average over the past ten years, but similar and lower figures have occurred during that period.

The danger of diphtheria has not yet disappeared and epidemics could again occur if the proportion of immunised children fell below the critical level. Whooping Cough is still with us; it causes many infant deaths and its after effects can be very serious.

Combined immunisation against both these diseases is free, safe and simple and it is the duty of all parents to ensure that their children have the protection it affords.

There were 14 cases of food poisoning notified in the rural district during 1954. The figures for this disease have been rising over the past few years, mainly, I think, due to better ascertainment of cases. Of the 14 cases, 11 occurred in one outbreak, due to the consumption of corned beef which was infected by staphylococci. Investigation led to the conclusion that infection had occured at the factory in Australia where the meat had been canned and that due to faulty processing the organisms were not killed during the final heating of the can. The meat was placed on sale in the shop concerned immediately the can had been opened and was sold sliced. No one concerned in its handling was found to be a carrier of organisms similar to those found in the meat and it would appear that no blame can attach to the shopkeeper concerned. Two other cases occurred in an outbreak in a children's ward in hospital and may possibly have been due to direct case to case transfer of infection rather than to food. The remaining two cases were isolated infections in which it was not possible to incriminate definitely any particular food as being responsible as the source of infection.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

In February, 1954, the Government announced their intention to remove in July the restrictions on the slaughter of animals which had been in force since 1940 and to restore the right of private individuals to re-open their slaughterhouses subject to certain conditions. The onus was placed upon local authorities to ensure that the slaughtering facilities in their districts would be adequate to meet the needs of the local traders, either by the provision of a public abbatoir or the licensing of private slaughterhouses. At the same time it was made clear that a policy of "moderate concentration" should be adopted.

After due consideration and in consultation with local butchers and others concerned with the meat trade, the Council decided not to provide a public abbatoir but to meet the slaughtering needs of the district by licensing private slaughterhouses where these could be brought up to the requisite standard to ensure the humane slaughter of animals under satisfactory hygienic conditions.

There were 25 slaughterhouses in the rural district before the war. Following a survey in 1954, applications were received from the occupiers or owners of fifteen of these premises for the issue of new licences. These were considered and eight were approved. To each of these eight applicants a detailed schedule of works required to make their premises fit was issued. The remaining seven were informed that the Council did not consider that their premises could be made fit.

By the end of the year seven of the successful applicants had carried out all the works required and in several cases had gone beyond the Council's requirements. In the remaining case, a slaughterhouse which has not been used since de-control, an extension of time—to 31st March, 1955—was granted to carry out the necessary improvements.

The result of this action has been to effect a concentration of the slaughtering in the district into a comparatively small number of premises of satisfactory standard in which meat inspection can be efficiently carried out.

It reflects great credit upon the Council that this desirable end was attained without a single appeal against their decisions in those cases where it was found necessary to refuse licences on the grounds of unfitness of the premises.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The Council are well aware that arrangements for the disposal of sewage are unsatisfactory in many parts of the district. This has been brought about to a large extent by increases in the population and the erection of additional houses, but it has been aggravated by a legacy from the past of numerous small sewage disposal plants provided in piece-meal fashion to deal with small groups of houses without regard for possible future development.

This is a problem the Council are tackling with some vigour. During the year good progress was made with the construction of additional sewers, pumping stations and a new sewage works for Atherstone and Mancetter, and schemes were well in hand for the provision of new sewers and sewage works to serve Birchley Heath, Ridge Lane, Polesworth, Birchmoor, Dordon and Warton.

WATER.

Water supplied through the Council's mains was of good quality both chemically and bacteriologically, throughout the year. There were difficulties during the Summer due to water shortage. The sources of supply available in the district are normally very restricted and the position was made worse by the abnormally dry weather in the Winter of 1953-54. Progress

is being made with the scheme to supply water from Birmingham via Nuneaton Corporation's new reservoir at Oldbury, but although the necessary pipe lines are nearing completion and the reservoir has been constructed, there is considerable work to be done at the intake works on the River Blythe and the main supply of water is unlikely to be received before 1956 at the earliest.

During the year samples of water were examined to determine their fluorine content. This element appears to play an important part in the protection of the teeth against decay when it is present in drinking water in concentrati ons of around one part per million. Flourine is present in Atherstone water in very small amounts.

Four local authorities are at present adding fluorine to their water supplies experimentally and careful observation is being kept with regard to its effect on the teeth of young children. It will be some time before the results of these experiments are known since the action of fluorine is mainly upon the developing teeth before birth and in the very early years of life, and the incidence of dental decay over a number of years must be recorded before it can be seen whether there is a reduction. It is, therefore, too early as yet to make any definite recommendations as to whether action should be taken locally.

Finally I would like to express my thanks to the many medical colleagues in hospital and in general practice who have been so helpful during the year and also to thank the officers of the Council and other authorities for their cooperation.

I also wish to express my gratitude to you, Mr. Chairman, and all the members of the Council, for your continued kindness and consideration during 1954.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. H. BRISCOE-SMITH,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

Area in acres	21,945
Population, census, ,1931	21,847
Population, census, 1951	23,662
Intercensal increase in population	1,815
Population (mid-year estimate) 1954	24,350
Number of inhabited houses (V.L. January, 1954)	7,310
Density of population, i.e. number of persons per acre, 1954	1.11
Number of persons per dwelling, 1954	3.33
Rateable value of District	£120,089
Sum represented by penny rate	£460
Excess of males over females (at Census)	416

Parish Population, Estimated 1951—

Parish	*Males*	*Females*	*Total*
Ansley	1,063	1,016	2,079
Atherstone	2,919	3,001	5,920
Baddesley Ensor	833	747	1,580
Baxterley	195	166	361
Bentley	104	33	187
Caldecote	81	45	126
Grendon	860	809	1,669
Hartshill	1,402	1,378	2,780
Mancetter	978	954	1,932
Merevale	93	120	213
Oldbury	33	39	72
Polesworth	2,086	1,886	3,972
...Dordon	1,437	1,336	2,771
			23,662

VITAL STATISTICS—

	Male	*Female*	*Total*
Live Births	228	197	425
Legitimate	220	190	410
Illegitimate	8	7	15
Birth Rate			17.4
Comparability Factor			0.96
Corrected Birth Rate			16.7
Still-births	5	4	9
Rate per 1,000 births			21.2
Deaths	121	104	225
Death Rate			9.2
Correction Factor			1.10
Corrected Death Rate			10.2
Neo-Natal Deaths (under 1 month)	2	1	3
Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Infant Deaths (0—12 months)	4	3	7
Legitimate	4	3	7
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Infant Mortality Rate			16.5
Legitimate			16.5
Illegitimate			—

NUMBER OF DEATHS FOR THE YEAR OF 1954—

	Causes of Death	*Male*	*Female*
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	—	—
5.	Whoooping cough	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	—	—
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	—	—
8.	Measles	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	1
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	—	3
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	2	—
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	5
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	3
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	11	9
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	1
16.	Diabetes	—	—
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	21	14
18.	Coronary disease, angina	17	12
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	—	3
20.	Other heart disease	12	17
21.	Other circulatory disease	6	6
22.	Influenza	—	—
23.	Pneumonia	7	5
24.	Bronchitis	7	5
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	4	—
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	5	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	1	4
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	7	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	—	—
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	13	10
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	1	1
34.	All other accidents	1	3
35.	Suicide	2	—
36.	Homicide and operations of war	1	—
		121	104
	Total	225	

BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE AND INFANTILE MORTALITY IN ATHERSTONE

Year	No. of Births	Crude Birth Rate	No. of Deaths	Crude Death Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate	Average 5 years. Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate
1943	424	19.3	213	9.7	49.5			
1944	464	21.2	239	10 9	40.9			
1945	460	21.2	210	9.7	45.7	20.8	10.3	44.4
1946	487	21.8	241	10.8	47.2			
1947	466	20.7	229	10.2	38.6			
1948	452	19.3	222	9.5	28.8			
1949	428	18.1	233	9.8	28.0			
1950	396	16.7	206	8.7	30.3	17.5	9.9	32.1
1951	397	16.8	252	10.7	35.3			
1952	392	16.6	258	10.9	38.3			
1953	409	17.2	272	11.5	39.1			
1954	425	17.4	225	9.2	16.5			

INQUESTS

	Males	*Females*	*Total*
No. of sudden deaths reported to Coroner	11	8	19
No. of Inquests	4	3	7
No. of Post Mortem examinations ...	5	5	10

Certified cause of death—

	Males	*Females*	*Total*
(a) Natural Causes	9	6	15
(b) Misadventure	—	—	—
(c) Suicide whilst of unsound mind	1	—	1
(d) Found drowned	—	—	—
(e) Accidental	1	2	3
(f) Stillborn	—	—	—
	11	8	19

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth:—
From sepsis 0
Number of deaths from measles (all ages) 0
From other causes 0
Number of deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) 0
Number of deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ... 0

BIRTHS

The number of registered live births for 1954, was 425. This was an increase of 16 over the number recorded for 1953. The birth rate was at its highest (21.8 per 1,000 population) in 1946, and fell year by year to 16.6 in 1952. The birth rate for 1954 is 17.4 per 1,000 population and is greater than that for England and Wales, 15.2 per 1,000.

The percentage of illegitimate births to the total is 3.4%. The last published national figure I have was 4.8% in 1951. In that year the comparable figure for Atherstone was 3.3%.

DEATHS.

The number of deaths registered during the year was 225. giving a crude death rate of 9.2 per 1,000 of the population.

The standardised death rate for Atherstone is 10.2, the factor for correction being 1.10. This factor being above unity indicates that the Atherstone population is more youthful than the average.

The 1954 death rate for England and Wales was 11.3 and for Warwickshire Administrative County and County Boroughs, was 10.5 per 1,000 of the population.

Table, on Page ??, shews death rates for Atherstone district over the past twelve years.

The diseases and conditions giving rise to the majority of the deaths over the last five years are:—

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Diseases of the heart and blood vessels ...	56	89	101	89	73
Cerebral haemorrhage ...	33	35	42	55	35
Cancer	27	36	30	39	33
Violence, accidents and suicide	28	22	13	28	28

INFANT DEATHS.

7 deaths of infants under one year of age occurred during 1954, 4 were males and 3 were females.

The infantile mortality rate was 16.5 per 1,000 related live births. The rate for England and Wales was 25.5 and for Warwickshire Administrative County and County Boroughs, 31.9 per 1,000 related live births.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Table , on page , shews the number of cases of notifiable infectious diseases which have occurred in Atherstone District over the last ten years.

The following are the number of cases of infectious diseases notified by Medical Practitioners in the year ended 31st December, 1954.

Scarlet Fever	11	6	17
Whooping Cough	6	10	16
Measles	30	36	66
Acute Poliomyelitis:—			
Paralytic	—	—	—
Non-Paralytic	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	2	2
Acute encephalitis	—	—	—
Dysentery	2	1	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	1	1
Acute Pneumonia	27	9	36
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	9	5	14
Malaria:—			
Contracted abroad	1	—	1
Indigenous	—	—	—
Erysipelas	2	2	4
	88	73	161

FOOD POISONING

The following is a copy of the Annual Return for 1954, which was submitted to the Ministry.

APPENDIX D (I)

1. *Local Authority.*
   Atherstone Rural District Council. Year 1954.
2. *Food Poisoning Notifications* (Correctel Returned to R.G.)

1st Quarter	*2nd Quarter*	*3rd Quarter*	*4th Quarter*	*Total*
Nil.	1	12	2	14

3. *Outbreaks due to identified agents.*
   Total Outbreaks 2. Total Cases 14.
   Outbreaks due to:—
   (a) Chemical Poisons.—Nil.
   (b) Salmonella Organisms.—One.
   (c) Staphylococci (including toxin).—One
   (d) Cl. botulinum.—Nil.
   (e) Other bacteria.—Nil.

4. *Outbreaks of undiscovered cause.*
   Total Outbreaks.—Nil. Total Cases.—Nil.
5. *Single cases.* Two.

Agents identified	*Unknown Cause*	*Total*
One	One	Two

APPENDIX D (II)

1. *Food Causing Outbreak*
   Canned Beef.

   Agent Causing Outbreak
   Staphylococci—"of type usually associated with outbreaks of food poisoning." (Bacteriologist).
2. *Cases forming Outbreak* which occurred from 29th to 30 July, 1954.
   Total notified—11. Total ascertained—11. Fatal—Nil.
3. *Clinical Features*
   Average interval ingestion to onset (Hrs.) — 4½.
   Main symptoms, etc.—Nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea and abdominal pain.
   Severity of Illness — Initially prostrating.
   Duration of Illness — one to two days.
4. *Results of Laboratory Investigations (Summary)*
   Case. Faeces yielded identical type staphylococci present in canned beef.
   Food Handlers. Nasal and throat swabs did not yield organisms of type recqvered from meat.
   Food Samples. 19,000,000 per gram staphyloccoci of type usually associated with outbreaks of food poisoning.
   Other. Nil.
5. *Origin and Preparation of Food Causing Illness.*
   Canned Beef manufactured and tinned in Australia. Can opened 11.30 a.m., on 29th July, Placed on sale immediately, sold sliced.
6. *Places at which food causing illness was consumed.*
   Homes.
   Estimated number of consumers at risk 24 to 30.
7. *Probable Origin of Infection or Contamination of Food*
   Bacteriologist stated in letter of August 8th, 1954.
   "In view of the history it would seem most likely that the meat was not infected in the shop, but that it was toxic on arrival at the premises. One must assume that an occasional can may escape efficient processing during manufacture: if the contents are infected with enterotoxin—producing bacteria, incidents such as this one must be expected."

The outbreak due to Salmonella Organisms, referred to in Appendix D (I) was of two cases notified from George Eliot Hospital Nuneaton.

Botth were children of 6 months of age, one a male, the other a female, who had been admitted to George Eliot Hospital, Nuneaton, on the 15th and 19th November, 1954, respectively.

Both suspected intussusception. On the 24th November, 1954, they were, in company with other children, transferred to Whitley Isolation Hospital, Coventry.

Both were notified cases of Food Poisoning — Agent causing being Salmonella Typhimurium.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED, 1945 — 1954.

Disease	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Scarlet Fever	18	15	34	47	25	22	15	81	18	17
Whooping Cough	24	77	14	84	21	21	69	3	68	16
Measles	149	72	244	114	33	292	230	120	292	66
Acute Poliomyelitis—										
Paralytic	—	2	3	—	—	1	—	—	8	—
Non-paralytic	—	—	2	—	—	3	1	—	12	—
Diphtheria	12	4	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	1	2	—	—	—	2	2	1	1	2
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	1	—	—	—	2	2	1	1	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	2	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Acute Pneumonia	60	46	60	41	33	46	51	16	22	36
Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Enteric or typhoid fever	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	6	5	14
Malaria —										
Contracted abroad	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Indigenous	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	7	8	3	3	1	1	1	2	3	4

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER
TABLE I

	MALES		FEMALES		
	Pul-monary	Non-Pul-monary	Pul-monary	Non-Pul-monary	TOTAL
(a) Number of cases on Register at beginning of year	93	20	67	30	210
(b) Number of cases notified under Regulations of 1952 for first time in year	11	1	14	1	27
(c) Number of cases restored to Register	—	—	—	—	—
(d) Number of cases added to Register otherwise than by formal notification	1	—	3	—	4
(e) Number of cases removed from Register during the year	5	—	10	3	18
(f) Number of cases remaining on Register on 31st December	100	21	74	28	223

SUMMARY OF CASES ON THE TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER, 1947 — 1954.

TABLE II

Year	Cases on Register			Notifications each year			Deaths		
	Pulm.	Non-Pulm.	Total	Pulm.	Non-Pulm.	Total	Pulm.	Non.-Pulm.	Total
1947	97	35	132	29	10	39	9	—	9
1948	103	33	136	33	4	37	10	1	11
1949	117	34	151	26	5	31	6	2	8
1950	123	36	159	18	5	23	10	1	11
1951	132	40	172	30	8	38	7	3	10
1952	146	47	193	28	12	40	6	2	8
1953	160	50	210	24	8	32	4	1	5
1954	174	49	223	29	2	31	3	--	3

LABORATORY FACILITIES

The Public Health Laboratory in Coventry accepts specimens sent for examination. Messrs. Bostock, Hill and Rigby, Public Analysts, Birmingham, are also frequently employed by the Council.

A small supply of Diphtheria anti-toxin it held in the Health Department in the Council Offices and anti-toxin is also available from the Public Health Laboratory at Coventry and from the Hospitals.

THE GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICE

The General Practitioner Service is administered by the Warwickshire Executive Council; eight medical practitioners live in the district, but others living outside have extended their activities to cover parts of the district.

There are no general hospital services directly available within the district, but Out-patients and In-patients facilities are available at the Nuneaton and Tamworth Hospitals. Cases of infectious disease are usually admitted to Whitley Hospital, Coventry, and a small percentage of cases requiring special treatment are admitted to Birmingham Hospitals. The bed accommodation for Tuberculosis patients is largely provided for at Hertford Hill Sanatorium, Nr. Warwick, but various other Sanatoria within the Birmingham Hospital Region are also used. Out-patient facilites are available at the Dispensary, Market Street, Atherstone, each Monday by appointment.

The Warwickshire County Council are responsible for the administration of the School Health Service, and for arrangements for Domiciliary Nursing, Domestic Helps, Vaccination and Immunisation, the care of Mothers and Young Children, the Prevention of Illness, Care and After Care and the Ambulance Service as laid down in Part III of the National Health Service, Act, 1946. With the exception of the Ambulance Service, the day to day admnistration of these services is under the control of the Area Medical Officer, Council House, Nuneaton. The Ambulance Depot has now been transferred to Swan Farm, Watling Street, Grendon.

A General Purposes Clinic was opened in March, 1953, in Station Street, Atherstone. The Infant Welfare Centre and School Clinics have been transferred to these premises and new buildings erected in Station Street, Atherstone. The Infant Welfare Centre and School Clinics have been transferred to these premises and sessions are held by the Speech Therapist, Dentist and Eye Specialist. An Orthopaedic exercise clinic is to be stablished in these premises in the near future and will be hed on Tuesday afternoons. A Dental Officer covers Bedworth and Atherstone and is at present devoting two full days a week to treatment in addition to routine inspections of schoolchildren in this Area.

Service	Situation of Premises	Days Open
Infant Welfare Centres (5 to 15 years)	Station Street, Atherstone.	Wednesdays (2—4 p.m.)
	Church Hall, Ansley.	Wednesdays (2—4 p.m.)
	Village Hall, Dordon.	Alt. Mondays (2—4 p.m.)
	Parish Hall, Polesworth.	Alt. Tuesdays (2—4 p.m.)
	Weslyan Hall, Baddesley.	Alt. Fridays (2—4 p.m.)
School Health Service (under 5 years)	Station Street, Atherstone.	
	Minor Ailments.	Wednesdays (9—12 noon)
	Ophthalmic.	Mondays a.m. Monthly by appointment.
	Speech Therapy.	Mondays p.m. Monthly by appointment.
	Orthopaedic Exercises	Tuesdays p.m. by appointment
	Dental.	Tuesdays and Fridays (all day—by appointment
	Nursing Home, Polesworth.	Alt. Thursdays (9 a.m.)
	Minor Ailments.	
	Nursing Home Hartshill.	
	Minor Ailments.	Daily (8.30 —9 a.m.)

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNCIL OFFICES, ATHERSTONE.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
ATHERSTONE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my twelfth Annual Report on my part of the work of the Health Department.

1954 was a difficult year for Mr. Margoschis, your Additional Sanitary Inspector, and myself. On July 2nd meat was decontrolled and slaughtering commenced in private slaughterhouses in the District. Meat inspection, we consider, a prime function of a Health Department and in support of this view, we gave some part of almost every evening and every Saturday and Sunday to that work; initially to protect public health and secondly to meet the exgencies of the meat trade, as statute, in truth, requires us to do. Reference to the section on Meat Inspection, page 28, gives an indication of the work involved.

At the end of July, the Clerk-Pupil in the Health Department resigned his position, which, despite advertisement, was not filled until the 1st January, 1955. Hence, we had the second half of the year without any clerical staff.

Some relief was occasioned at the end of October, 1954, when I gladly handed over the selection of tenants for Council houses to Mr. J. Watts, your Rating Officer, who was then given the additional designation of Housing Officer.

The Council further recognised our difficulties by deciding that a second Additional Sanitary Inspector should be appointed.

It was evident that the refuse collection service gave general satisfaction, for there were very few complaints received during the year. On average, every dwelling was cleared of refuse forty-one times during the year.

An interesting, but consequent point arising from the construction of new dwellings and the conversion of old houses to hot water systems, is the increased water consumption per head of population.

Admittedly, water is cheap and health is precious, but I wonder how much of the increased gallonage per head is run to waste waiting for the hot issue ? It can not be too heavily stressed that every dwelling and hot water system should be so laid out that there is a minimum distance from boiler to cylinder and from cylinder to taps.

In 1947, in the District, domestic water consumption was at the rate of 16.76 gallons per person per day. In 1954, 20.01 gallons per person per day were being used for domestic purposes, i.e. an increase of 1,186 gallons per person per year. From 1947 to 1954, the number of houses with hot water systems has increased by some 1,300.

I wish to express my appreciation of the assistance and support I have received from the Chaiman and the Members of the Public Health and Housing Committees and in conclusion to thank Mr. Margoschis, your Additional Sanitary Inspector, for his thorough and conscientious work throughout the year.

Commending this Report to your notice,
I have the honour to be
Your obedient Servant,
SYDNEY B. ACTON,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

HOUSING

The Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, came into force on the 30th August, 1954. Only two applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received to the end of the year (both were granted) and only about a dozen enquiries were made by tenants. Considering that 72.4% (3.145 out of 4,343 privately owned houses under £16 rateable value) were suffering from minor and major defects in 1947, the conclusion may be drawn that landlords, for obvious reasons, have made very little use of Part II (Repairs Increase) of that Act.

The following table is a copy of a Report submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and covering the year ended 31st December 1954.

Local Authority Atherstone Rural District Council
County, Warwick.

CLEARANCE AREAS AND INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES

RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1954.

PART A.—CLEARANCE AREAS (Housing Act, 1936).

	Number of dwelling houses demolished in the period		
	Unfit houses	*Other houses*	*Number of persons displaced*
(1) Land coloured "pink"	—	—	—
(2) Land coloured "grey"	—	—	—

PART B.—Houses not included in Clearance Areas.

(1) Housing Act, 1936.

	Number of houses	*Number of persons displaced*
(a) Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section II	1	1
(b) Houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners under Section II, and still in force	5	12
(c) Parts of buildings closed (Section (12)	—	—
(2) Housing Act, 1949.		
(a) Closing Orders made under Section 2(1)	—	—
(b) Demolition Orders determined and Closing Orders substituted under Section 3(2)	—	—
(3) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953. Closing Orders made under Section 10(1)	2	8

Informal Action

(4) Number of unfit or defective house rendered fit during the period as a result of informal action by the local authority under the Public Health or Housing Acts. 103

Action Under Statutory Powers

(5) Public Health Acts.
Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices (a) by owners 15
(b) by local authority in default of owners ... ... —

(6) Housing Act, 1936.
Number of houses made fit after service of formal notices (Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16)—
(a) by owners 18
(b) by local authority in default of owners ... ... —

SELECTION OF TENANTS FOR COUNCIL HOUSES.

I carried out this very unpleasant and frustrating work from 1946, until the end of October, 1954, when I handed over to Mr. J. Watts, your Rating Officer.

To facilitate Mr. Watts' future work, all applicants were invited to submit new forms of application before he took over. Hence, he received a "live" list.

At the end of December, 1954, there were 23 selected families awaiting the completion of houses in course of erection at Boot Hill, Grendon, and 41 selected families awaiting houses in Ansley Common. There were also 620 applicant families not selected for dwellings, made up of 280 lodger-families and 340 tenant-families. The majority of the tenant-families live in unfit houses which are to be condemned and demolished in due time.

WATER SUPPLIES

In the District there are 7,310 domestic premises and of these 6,702 have water laid over sinks in; 176 have water laid to taps in wash-houses; 264 are served by standpipes and 168 are served by water from shallow wells and springs.

Council main supplies in the District arise from four principal sources: (a) boreholes at Warton into Keele Sandstone; (b) borehole at Bramcote discharging into shallow well; (c) well at Ansley into Keele Sandstone; and (d) from well at Baddesley Colliery. The water is pumped from each of these stations to a series of reservoirs from which is gravitates. Chlorination is by automatic plants which were installed at each of the three Council owned pumping stations in 1949.

Forty samples of the Council main and private water supplies were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Coventry, and to the Public Analyst, Birmingham, for chemical and bacteriological examinations.

The results of examinations of these waters are given in the following table:—

Source of sample	*Public Analyst's or Bacteriologists's Comments*	*Result of Action taken*
Twenty-three samples of Council Mains water from pumping stations and dwellings in various parts of the District.	All results — Chemically and bacteriologically of good quality and suitable for use as a public supply.	—
Thirteen samples of spring water to a private school — taken from taps.	Initially satisfactory. end of year denoted Six samples in and at "potentially unsafe."	At year end action being taken to have Council main water laid on. (Spring water chemically good. Poor results arose through lack of attention to chlorination).
Water from Pit Shaft pumped to reservoir. (Intended to be used as supply to farm house and buildings).	Suspicious quality and potentially unsafe for use for drinking purposes. (Submitted 15th December, 1954).	Proposals being made to render water fit for use.
Shallow well to one cottage.	Unfit for human consumption in raw state.	Storage tanks and domestic filter installed.
Shallow well to one cottage.	Suspicious quality and potentially unsafe for use for drinking purposes.	Main water not available. Advised boiling.

The following table shows the number of occupied dwelings in the Rural District the number of dwelling-houses supplied with Council main water (a) to sinks in the dwelings, (b) to sinks in wash-houses adjoining or adjacent to the dwellings and (c) to standpipes, the number of houses having no Council main water is also shown. These figures are for each Parish and give also the numbers of the poupla-tion so served.

Parish	*No. of occupied houses*	*No. with water laid in*	*No. of pop. so served*	*No. with water laid in to wash-houses*	*No. of pop. so served*	*No. of houses served by stand pipes*	*No. of pop. so served*	*No. of houses having well water*	*No. of pop. so served*
Atherstone ..	1671	1504	5010	51	169	107	356	9	30
Ansley	691	651	2168	8	27	7	24	25	83
Baddesley Ensor	522	492	1638	22	74	6	20	2	7
Baxterley ..	127	111	369	8	28	7	24	1	3
Bentley	56	34	113	4	14	3	10	15	51
Caldecote ..	37	31	103	—	—	—	—	6	20
Dordon ..	975	924	3074	24	80	11	37	16	54
Grendon ..	466	428	1426	18	61	4	14	16	56
Hartshill ..	805	713	2376	22	73	46	152	24	81
Mancetter ..	743	681	2268	4	14	27	91	31	104
Merevale ..	64	57	192	2	7	—	—	5	18
Oldbury ..	21	16	44	1	3	—	—	4	14
Polesworth ..	1132	1060	3529	12	40	46	154	14	47
Totals	7310	6702	22310	176	590	264	882	168	568

In connection with the Atherstone-Nuneaton Water Supply Scheme a Contractor commenced pipe laying in mid-November, on No. 1 Contract. By the end of December, 900 yards had been laid between Mancetter and Oldbury. The Contract is for a period of twelve months.

Apart from Council housing projects, the two principal water main extensions carried out in 1954, were 1.341 yards of main at Birchley Heath, to serve existing premises and 100 yards of main in Clock Hill, Hartshill, to provide for new private development.

In March and April your Engineer and Surveyor had pump modifications carried out at Warton Pumping Station. During the operations it was found that the original depth of 335 ft. of Bore No. 1 had been reduced to 267 ft. by sand deposits which had to be extracted.

The fluoride content of public water supplies in Atherstone Rural District is:—

Source of Water	*Fluoride Par. per 1,000,000*
Bramcote Pumping Station	0.15
Warton Pumping Station	0.24
Ansley Pumping Station	Nil
Baddesley Colliery	0.11
Leicester Corporation Water Department	0.24

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The Annual Report for 1952 contained a statement on the conditions of sewerage and sewage disposal works throughout the District.

A tender for the provision of additional and relief sewers and pumping stations in Atherstone and Mancetter and for the reconstruction of Atherstone Sewage Works, was accepted in December, 1953. The contract period was for two years.

By the end of 1954, the new sewer and pumping station at Witherley was almost completed and good progress had been made in the construction of the new sewage works at Atherstone.

The Ministry, when giving approval to the Atherstone-Mancetter Scheme, excluded the sewering of the fifty-odd dwelling houses in the old village part of Mancetter, which discharge crude sewage liquor direct into tthe River Anker. From a public health aspect this is very disappointing and I hope that the necessary sewer extension will be allowed to follow immediately after the completion of the present contract. The river Anker water is heavily polluted when it reaches our district; below the village it does not conform to the requirements of a good sewage works effluent.

Consulting Engineers have been employed for several years on schemes of sewerage and sewage disposal works for Polesworth, Warton, Birchmoor and Dordon. Plans and details were submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government during the year and approval is awaited.

In December, 1954, tenders were received for new sewers and sewage disposal works at Birchley Heath and Ridge Lane. The Scheme was drawn up by your Engineer and Surveyor. The provisionally accepted tender was sent to the Minister for his sanction.

HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION

1954 was, I think, the most successful year we have had so far for the operation of this service. The weather was reasonably good for us and frequency of refuse removal throughout our area averaged eight days in the first quarter and nine days in the last quarter. General satisfaction was given because of the lack of complaints, which are usually inseparable from this work.

In the Parish of Atherstone, which is our most urban, refuse collection is carried out by the Contractor; the Council providing and maintaining the 1948 S.D. Refuse Freighter which he uses.

Refuse collection is carried out by direct labour in the other twelve parishes and night-soil from 458 houses is removed weekly. One part-time Foreman, five Driver-Loaders and eight Labourers are employed on this work, together with four S.D. Refuse Freighters, one 1946, one 1948, one 1950 and one 1951, and a Morris Commercal Tanker for night-soil collection.

The Council does not undertake the cleansing of cesspools in any part of the District. A Public Cleansing Contractor comes frequently into our area and he is generally employed by those needing this service.

The following table shews the numbers of houses cleared of refuse, pails, privies and dry-pits emptied by the direct labour refuse collection service and gives an impression of the extension of the work since 1947, when only two parishes were dealt with.

Years	*Houses Cleared*	*Pails*	*Privies*	*Ashpits*
1954	226,579	22,897	7	—
1947	74,781	5,826	50	44
1948	91,665	7,260	34	35
1949	115,296	13,956	22	22
1950	152,574	19,558	26	15
1951	140,290	20,950	25	13
1952	213,166	21,705	15	5
1953	213,498	22,476	8	5

During the year absence of refuse collection and disposal employees totalled 44 days, whilst medically certified illness amounted to 271 days. This was a reduction on the previous year when work days lost were 64 for absence and 321 for illness.

In 1949, the Council adopted the Conditions of Service of the West Midlands Joint Industrial Council for Manual Workers, together with the Sickness Benefit Scheme and two weeks annual holiday with pay.

Following I give you the cost of the Sickness Benefit Scheme since its inception.

Year	£	*s.*	*d.*
1949 (one quarter)	18	6	5
1950	78	19	4
1951	107	4	0
1952	166	11	2
1953	233	8	11
1954	209	16	10

The total cost of the collection and disposal of house refuse and night soil in the year ended 31st March, 1955, was £9789.

HOUSE REFUSE DISPOSAL.

In Mid-June, tipping was completed at the large Baddesley Ensor Sports Field. Prior to commencement of tipping in February, 1953, a slope of some twelve feet existed. Covering with the top soil, which was removed and stacked, and regrading and seeding is to be done by the Sports Field Committee's Contractors during 1955.

The Clock Hill Tip, Hartshill, has been used throughout the year for the controlled tipping of refuse from the southern part of our area.

Pit holes on farm lands in Grendon and Baxterley were filled in with refuse collected in these areas during the third quarter of the year.

The Warton Road, Grendon, Tip was used for the disposal of refuse from the northern part of the District during the last quarter.

To deter insect infestations, Gammexane Dust is used daily on the Tips from April to September. The Tips are also kept free from rats by prompt treatments, when there are indications of rats visiting or burrowing.

Two men are employed full time on tip work.

The number of loads of house refuse taken to the Tips by the direct refuse collection service in 1954, were:—

Baddesley Ensor Sports Feld.	*Hartshill Tip.*	*Grendon Tip.*	*Pit Holes.*	*Night-Soil to Sewage Works.*
1,020	1,020	408	626	204.

SALVAGE.

Some salvaging of rags and woollens and scrap metals was carried on during the year. Salvage sales amounted to £18 10s. 6d.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES.

All the larger food premises, and many of the smaller ones, were visited during the year, the work being carried out mainly in the first half of the year before the resumption of Meat Inspection reduced the time available for such visits. Inspection of the various premises indicated that generally the requirements of Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and the Food Handling Byelaws made under Section 15 of that Act are satisfied. Where infringements were found informal action was taken and eventually had the desired effect. Premises covered by these inspections include all types of provision shops, bakehouses, food preparing premises, cafes, canteens, etc., etc.

Considerable improvement has been noted in many of the shops handling grocery and general provisions. A number of shops have been re-decorated throughout and the use of light coloured paint, and in some cases pastel shades has resulted in a much more pleasing appearance and assisted in maintaining fixtures, counters, etc., in a clean condition. At least three of these shops have been completely refitted with up to date fixtures and plans are in hand for another large shop to be dealt with in the same way. Two new provision shops were opened during the year, one of them being the first in the district to be run on the self-service method.

In 1951 there were 30 premises registered and used as Fish Frying shops, but during the past four years there has been a reduction in these shops, so that in 1954 only 24 of those registered remained in use and of these 4 were temporarily closed, thus reducing the 1951 figure by one-third. A further two shops were opened in premises suitably converted for the purpose. During visits of inspections the requirements of the Act and Byelaws were found to be complied with.

The year has seen little alteration as far as bakehouses are concerned, but less bread is being made in them; the tendency towards confectionery being maintained. An ever increasing number of small shops are selling factory made bread which is delivered daily from large bakeries in Coventry and Leicester; the majority of this bread is sliced and wrapped. One bakehouse was temporarily closed during the year, but there is the possibility of it being re-opened. Visits made to the bakehouses have indicated that they are being maintained in a generally satisfactory condition.

The various types of premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 are as follows:—

Fried Fish and Chip Shops	24
Preparation of Cooked Meats, etc.	31
Sale and Manufacture of Ice Cream	81

A list of works of improvement or repair carried out during the year will be found at the end of this report.

UNFIT FOOD CONDEMNED DURING 1954.

		cwts.	*qrs.*	*lbs.*
518	Tins of Meat, Milk, Fish, Fruit, Vegetables, etc. (Bdown, holed, tc.) ...	4	3	20
	Cooked Hams — Tinned and "Green"		3	24
	Luncheon Meat, Jellied Veal, Tongues, etc.	1	2	15
	Sausages		1	4
6	Tinned Puddings			6
	Dried Fruit			11
	Black Puddings			22
		8	—	18

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

In 1939, there were 25 licenced slaughter-houses in our area. Prior to meat de-rationing in July 1954, 15 owners and occupiers of premises which were licenced pre-war, made application for new licences. Seven of these were refused on grounds of public health. There were no appeals to Court made against the Council's decision.

At the end of the year 7 slaughter-houses were licenced to the end of 1955 and the owner-occupier of a "registered" premise was granted an extension to carry out improvements and repairs before the 31st March, 1955.

At the premises licenced the number of animals slaughtered from 2nd July to 31st December, 1945, numbered:—

Slaughterhouse Number	*Oxen*	*Calves*	*Sheep and Lambs*	*Pigs*
One	1046	93	1927	1542
Two	63	6	337	328
Three	41	1	223	61
Four	—	—	—	8
Five	52	1	191	67
Six	62	7	253	98
Seven	—	—	—	—
Eight	—	—	—	—
Totals	1264	108	2931	2104

Slaughter-house No. 1 was almost totally rebuilt and extended and a small pre-war wholesale business was vastly increased, as the figures indicate. Slaughter-house No. 2 was also fully reconstructed and retail and a small wholesale business are carried on. Slaughter-house No. 6 is used by two butchers from a neighbouring area and this and No. 5 have been provided with separate cooling rooms. The other licenced premises have been improved to the degree which the apparent business merited. In having alterations and improvements carried out, a main object I had in view and enforced, was the provision of lighting and of sufficient offal rails and hanging space to facilitate meat inspection. As a result, the 28 to 30 hours each week spent on meat inspection are carried out in good conditions.

MEAT INSPECTION

During the second half of the year, the de-rationing of meat caused a great deal of extra work for your Additional Sanitary Inspector and myself. 629 visits for inspection of meat were made to slaughter-houses and 154 of these were outside office hours.

Slaughtermen were employed seven days every week in the premise which deals with over two-thirds of the animals killed in the area and meat inspection was also carried out seven days each week.

The following table shews the numbers of animals slaughtered and inspected and affected with diseases which necessitated condemnation of carcases or parts and of organs.

Details	Cows	Cattle Encl. Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Numbers killed	65	1199	108	2931	2104
Numbers inspected	65	1199	108	2931	2104
All Diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcases condemnned	—	1	1	1	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	32	340	1	26	154
Percentage affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	49.2	28.4	1.9	0.9	7.3
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcases condemned	—	1	—	—	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	27	238	—	—	82
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	41.5	19.9	—	—	3.9

MEAT CONDEMNED.

The following Table shows the amount of meat found to be diseased and unfit for human consumption in the slaughterhouses in the District, from the 2nd July to thte 31st December, 1954.

Oxen all Diseases exeept Tubereulosis

		Ton	cwt.	qr.	lb.
1	Part of Hindquarters (Broken pelvis) ...			3	24
1	Whole carcase and organs (extensive bruising)		9	1	—
1	Carcase and all organs (Septicaemia)		6	2	—
1	Carcase and all organs (Pneumonia & Emae)		2	—	6
63	Livers (Cirrhosis)		6	3	12
218	Part Livers (Cirrhosis)		13	1	25
49	Livers (Abscesses)		4	1	2
26	Part Livers (Abscesses)		1	3	24
5	Livers (Melanosis)		—	2	4
3	Livers (Mecrosis)		—	1	10
18	Livers (Angiomatosis)		1	3	22
8	Livers (Hydatid Cysts)		—	3	12
1	Livers (Fatty Inflammation)		—	—	14
1	Head and Tongue (Actinimycosis)		—	1	4
26	Lungs (Pleuritis)		2	—	25
6	Lung (Abscesses)		—	2	4
19	Lungs (Hydatic Cysts)		1	3	22
1	Lungs (Pneumonia)		—	—	10
5	Hearts (Pericarditis)		—	—	14
6	Kidneys (Mephritis)		—	—	8
2	Kidneys (Fibro-plastic Mephritis)		—	—	3
6	Skirts (Inflammation)		—	—	12
3	Udders (Mastitis)		—	1	20
9	Mesenteries and Intestines (Inflammation				

		Ton	cwt.	qr.	lb.
	Abscesses, etc.)		5	1	27
31	Intestines (Johnes Disease)		17	2	26
9	Speino (Inflammation)		—	—	14
6	Stomachs (Inflammation Abscesses)		3	1	22
5	Heads, Hearts and Skirts (Cysticerus Bovis, Carcases sent for refrigeration		1	2	22
Pigs all Diseases except Tuberculosis					
105	Lungs (Pneumonia)		—	3	12
10	Plucks (Inflammation)		—	2	14
43	Livers (Milkspots)		1	—	24
Sheep all Diseases except Tuberculosis					
1	Part of Carcase (Bruising)		—	1	2
1	Carcase and all organs (Septic-Mastitis)		—	2	24
1	Neck, Nibs and Pluck (Abscess)		—	—	16
14	Livers (Distomatosis)		—	1	14
6	Livers (Hydatid Cysts)		—	—	16
5	Lungs (Hydatid Cysts)		—	—	5
Oxen—Tuberculosis only					
1	Carcase and all organs		10	—	16
1	Forequarter		1	—	16
6	Parts of forequarters		4	2	—
121	Heads and Tongues	1	14	2	18
131	Lungs		11	3	2
7	Hearts		—	—	24
24	Skirts		—	1	20
20	Livers		2	1	—
10	Spleens		—	—	20
95	Mesenteries and Intestines	2	3	1	8
9	Stomachs	—	4	3	8
Pigs—Tuberculosis only					
1	Carcase and all organs		1	—	14
54	Heads		4	1	10
36	Lungs		—	1	10
23	Livers		—	2	3
5	Spleens		—	—	3
6	Stomachs		—	1	5
40	Mesenteries and Intestines		7	—	16
	Total	10	16	0	17

CYSTICERCUS BOVIS:—

Five, 0.4 per centum, of beef carcases were found to contain the larval stage cysts of the tape worm Taenia inermis of man.

Sites of predilection were thoroughly examined and incised when cysts were found in heads, hearts or diaphragms, but none of the carcases shewed signs of heavy infestation. In one carcase two cysts were found in outer masseter muscles and one in the heart; in another, one cyst was found in a masseter muscle and one in the heart, whilst of the other three, two had one cyst only in outer masseter muscles and one had one cyst only in the heart muscle.

The five carcases were sent for 3 weeks refrigeration at temperature not exceeding 20° F. at the Ministry of Food Cold Store, Tamworth.

PIGS.—DEADWEIGHT CERTIFICATION:—

There are two slaughterhouses approved as Deadweight Certification Centres in the District.

Your Additional Sanitary Inspector and myself are appointed Certifying Officers for the Ministry of Food.

In the six months ended 31st December, 1954, 257 pigs have been certified for deadweight payments.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1933—1954:—

For 1955, 31 slaughtermen's licences have been renewed and 5 new licences have been issued.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS, 1938 TO 1950.

Mr. J. S. Preston, Chief Inspector, Weights and Measures Department, Warwickshire County Council, has sent a Report on his activities in our area during 1953. I would commend his following Report to your notice.

Report of the Chief Sampling Officer under the Food and Drugs Acts, 1938—1950, relative to the samples procured within the area of the Atherstone Rural District Council, during the year ended the 31st December, 1954.

	No. of Samples	*No. Unsatisfactory*
Antacid powder	1	—
Bicarbonate of soda	1	—
Boracic ointment	1	—
Butter	10	2
Butter batches	1	1
Butter snap	1	—
Buttered rolls	1	—
Cheese spread	1	—
Condensed milk	1	—
Dripping	1	—
Ground almonds	1	—
Home-brewed ale	1	—
Ice cream	6	—
Jam	3	—
Jelly	2	—
Lard	1	—
Lemon cheese	2	—
Lemon pie fillinog	1	—
Malt vinegar	2	—
Margarine	5	—
Marmalade	1	—
Milk	83	9
Mixed Peel	2	—
Orange Squash	1	—
Potted beef paste	1	—
Rheumatism balm	1	—
Salmon paste	1	—
Soft drinks	2	—
Soup	2	—
Sweets	2	—
Tea	4	1
Tomato juice cocktail	1	—
Vitamin food	1	—
White pepper	1	—
Total	146	13

UNSATISFACTORY SAMPLES.—

MILK.

With few exceptions, the milk supplies in the area were satisfactory, and the nine unsatisfactory samples affected only five vendors and were, in each case, deficient of fat, the amounts varying between 6% and 8% below the minimum limit.

Investigations showed the deficiencies to be due to natural causes, the milk given by the cows belonging to the producers concerned, being of poor quality. The results of the samples were communicated to the vendors, who were, in some cases advised to seek the guidance of the County Milk Production Officer, with a view to improving the quality of the milk produced by them.

It will be appreciated that the results of these samples did not, in these circumstances, involve any offence under the Food and Drugs Acts.

MISCELLANEOUS SAMPLES.—

(1) BUTTER.

Two samples showed slight excess of water, namely 1.8% and 1.2% over the limit of 16% of water prescribed by Section 32 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. These discrepancies were not however, regarded as serious enough to warrant the institution of legal proceedings. Further checks of the producers in question have ben satisfactory.

(2) BUTTER BATCHES.

This sample was purchased at a snack bar and analysis revealed that the butter portion of the article consisted of only 15%, the remainder being fat of a type resembling margarine.

When the proprietor of the premises was subsequently acquainted with the results of the sample, he quite openly admitted that he had used a mixture of butter and margarine. In this case, the matter was not regarded as being of a fraudulent nature, but ratther to have been caused by the vendor not having made certain that, by mixing butter and margarine for use as butter, he was not committing any offence. Legal proceedings were taken, but, in the circumstances, they were not pressed. The defendant was fined £1 0s. 0d. with £1 15s. 0d. costs.

(3) TEA.

An informal sample of tea proved to contain a high proportion of stalk. Several samples, both formal and informal, of the same brand of tea have been obtained in various parts of tne County, but these have all proved to be satisfactorv and it is reasonable to believe that the excess stalk in the sample which formed the subject of complaint, may have been due to improper mixing of the product during packing.

J. S. PRESTON,
Chief Sampling Officer.

10, Market Place,
Warwick.

MILK SUPPLIES AND DAIRIES

Our Register under the Acts and Regulations contains the following:—

Milk Distributors	26
Dairies	14
Supplemeintary Pasteurised Licences	3
Supplementary Sterilised Licences	2
Dealers' Pasteurised Licences	15
Dealers" Sterilised Licences	5
Dealers' Tuberculin Tested Licences	7

Distributors are generally found to keep their dairies and utensils in clean and satisfactory conditon.

Local sanitary authorities have duties in connection with the distrbution of milk and distributors' dairies, other than those at farms, and the use of measures to protect the public against the sale of milk which might cause disease, but the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheres is responsible for the administration of laws and regulations governing the production of milk at farms.

During 1954, the County Health Department submitted for biological examination 55 samples of accredited and ungraded milks which were produced in our District and one of these was found to contan living tubercle bacilli. Four samples of tuberculin tested milk were likewise examined, but were negative. Three cases of living tubercle bacilli present in milk being produced at farms in our area were also reported by neighbouring County Authorities. In only two of the four instances was milk being sold without heat treatment and in these cases the distributors were found alternative supplies of safe milk until the affected cows in the herds had been removed and the milk certified non-tuberculous. Notice restricting the supply of infected milk was served in each case.

The following table, supplied by the County Sanitary Officer, shews the results of the Veterinary Officer's Investigations of tubercle infected milk supplies arising from farms in Atherstone Rural District, during 1954.

	Cases found on routine sampling in in the County	*Cases reported by neighbouring County Authorities*
Investigations	1	3
Cows examined	7	31
Milk samples for diagnostic purposes	3	11
Cows slaughtered under Tuberculosis Order	1	4
Cows that may have been infected removed from herds during investigations	—	—

ICE CREAM.

The past eight years have seen a very great change in the Ice Cream Industry within the District. In 1947 only 23 premises were registered for the manufacture and sale of Ice Cream and by 1954 this number had risen to 81, but the number of vendors manufacturing their own commodity fell from 10 in 1947 to only one in 1954.

The increase in the number of premises selling Ice Cream has been fairly constant but appears to have reached a peak in 1953; there were only 3 new registrations in 1954 and several of the registered premises suspended sales.

Of the 10 vendors, who in 1951, were manufacturing their own Ice Cream only two continued to do so in 1954. Early in the season when his machines failed ,one of these ceased manufacture and now purchases Ice Cream in bulk. The remaining maunfacturer works in accordance with the Heat Treatment Regulations and sells his product at his shop and from a motor vehicle. Samples of his Ice Cream taken during the year have shown very satisfactory results.

In all 15 samples were taken to the Public Health Laboratory for Bacteriological Examination and the table below gives the results received.

The second table shows the change which has taken place since 1947. The high number of samples taken in 1949 was due to the necessity of checking the purity to the large amount of loose ice-cream being sold from various types of vehicles. There has been a reduction in the number of vehicles coming into the district and nearly all the ice-cream sold from them is now wrapped.

TABLE I

	Grades				
	1	2	3	4	
Samples of Ice Cream made outside District	6	1	—	—	7
Samples of Ice Cream made by one manufacturer in the District	6	1	1	—	8
Total					15

TABLE II

Year	*No. of Premises Registered*	*No. of Premises Manufacturing*	*No. of Samples Taken*
1947	23	10	29
1948	26	10	43
1949	39	10	100
1950	51	10	21
1951	61	6	6
1952	64	6	29
1953	78	4	11
1954	81	1	15

FACTORIES.

There were 105 factories entered on the Factory Register at the end of 1954, 27 of these being temporary entries of building sites, etc. 74 of the 78 factories have power and in these only Section 7 of Part 1 of the Factories Act, 1937 is enforced by the Local Authority. In the 4 factories where power is not used Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are also enforced.

The majority of factory labour in the district is employed in the six large hat factories, 9 other factories manufacture hosiery, shoes and other articles of apparel, whilst the remainder are engaged in engineering, light industry, warehouses, etc., etc.

The number of Outworkers on the Register during the year was 45, the majority of whom were employed by local hat and hosiery manufacturers.

During visits to factories any Certificate under Section 34 of the Factories Act, 1937, in respect of Adequate means of Escape in Case of Fire, is considered and any necessary alterations or additions made. In 1954, 19 Certificates were in force. One new Certificate was issued and amendments were made to two existing certificates during the year.

A total of 79 visits were made to Factories during the year which revealed principally minor defects. In one case, however, the conversion of a factory into two separate factories had left the employees of one without sanitary accommodation. At the close of the year an architect was employed in proposals for new sanitary accommodation and canteen facilities at this factory.

The following table shews the number of factories, inspections made and defects found and remedied:—

	No. on Reg.	*Inspections*	*Written notices*	*Prosecutions*
i Factories where Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 enforced by L.A.	4	3	—	—
ii Factories where Sec. 7 only enforced by L. A.	74	53	14	—
iii Other factories where Sec. 7 enforced by L.A. (Building Sites, etc.)	27	23	—	—

		Defects Found.	*Defects Remedied.*
Unsatisfactory means of fire escape		3	3
Want of Cleanliness	(S1)	—	—
Overcrowding	(S2)	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	(S3)	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation	(S4)	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	(S4)	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences	(S7)	—	—
(*a*) insufficient		—	—
(*b*) insufficient or defective		1	—
(*c*) not separate for sexes		6	5
(*d*) other offences against the Act		3	2

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Enquiries are made into notified cases of infectious diseases and disinfections of houses, bedding and clothing are carried out when necessary.

Free supply of disinfectant for prophylatic measures in houses where infectious diseases exist is carried out from six premises in various parts of the District and from the Public Health Department.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are no premises in the district where offensive trades are carried on.

CANAL BOATS.

Occasional visits are paid to the docks and wharves.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

The Byelaws made under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, restrict the emission of black smoke to two minutes in any period of thirty minutes.

Casual observations on all factory chimneys are made during routine work and visits; timed observations being carried out whenever casual observation indicated possible infringement of the Byelaws.

Only four timed observations were made during the year on three factory chimneys.

The results of the observations are given below. Managements and stokers seen and advised and immediate improvements were noted, as in past years, though from time to time there are lapses. The infringements were not serious and no legal proceedings were necessary.

Black Smoke	*Moderate*	*None or slight*	*Total*
Mins.	*Mins.*	*Mins.*	*Mins.*
5	$3\frac{1}{4}$	$21\frac{3}{4}$	30
$5\frac{1}{2}$	$3\frac{1}{4}$	$21\frac{1}{4}$	30
$3\frac{1}{2}$	$5\frac{1}{4}$	$21\frac{1}{4}$	30
4	$4\frac{1}{2}$	$21\frac{1}{2}$	30

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries bears one-half of the cost of rodent destruction. The Council employs one part-time Rodent Operative. The following Table shews the result of his work at private, business and Council-owned premises.

During the year sewers throughout the District were given one treatment for the destruction of rats therein. 317 manholes were baited; 86 shewed pre-bait takes. Rusk with $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ Zinc Phosphide was used for poisoning.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

Report for 12 months ended 31st March, 1955.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
		Non-Agricultural			
	(1) *Local Authority.*	(2) *Dwelling Houses (inc. Council houses.)*	(3) *All other (inc. Business Premises.*	(4) *Total of Cols. (1) (2) & (3)*	(5) *Agricultural*
1. Number of properties in Local Authority's District (Notes 1 and 2)	20	7246	831	8077	157
2. Number of properties inspected as a result of:—					
(a) Notification	—	56	10	66	2
(b) Survey under the Act	20	965	43	1028	10
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)	—	42	16	58	—

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
		Non-Agricultural			
	(1) Local Authority.	(2) Dwelling Houses (inc. Council houses.)	(3) All other (inc. Business Premises.	(4) Total of Cols. (1) (2) & (3)	(5) Agricultural
3. Total inspections carried out including re-inspections (To be completed only if figures are readily available).	—	—	—	—	—
4. Number of properties inspected (in Sec. 11) which were found to be infested by:—					
(a) Rats Major	—	—	—	—	—
Minor	16	99	10	125	—
(b) Mice. Major	—	—	—	—	—
Minor	—	6	—	6	—
5. Number of infested properties (in Sec. 4) treated by the L.A. (Figures should NOT exceed those given at Sec. 4)	16	105	10	131	—
6. Total treatments carried out including re-treatments. (To be completed only if figures are readily available).	26	105	10	141	—
7 Number of notices served under Sec. 4 of the Act:	—	—	—	—	—
(a) Treatment	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Structural Work (i.e. Proofing)	—	—	—	—	—
8. Number of cases in which defallt action was taken following the issue of a notice under Sec. 4 of the Act.	—	—	—	—	—
9. Legal Proceeding (see over)	—	—	—	—	—
10. Number of "Block" control scheme carried out	—	—	—	—	—

WORK DONE AT PREMISES DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1954.

HOUSING. EXTERNAL.	
Walls—	
Raked and repointed or rendered	14
Vertical damp proofing of walls	4
Open areas constructed	1
Sub-floor ventilation provided or increased	—
Roofs—	
Stripped and re-slated or re-tiled	3
Repaired and made weather-proof	43
Skylights repaired	3
Gutterings—	
Repaired and/or new provided and fixed	21
Downspouts—	
Repaired and/or new provided and fixed	12
Chimney stacks—	
Wholly or in part taken down and re-built	4
Raked and re-pointed	5
Yards, Courts, and Passages—	
Taken up and re-laid or concreted	5
Water Supply—	
Laid on into houses	4
Hot water system provided	3
Standpipes dis-used	2
Wells dis-used	—
New pumps provided to wells, or repaired	—
Wells cleansed	—
Wells repaired	—
Bursts repaired	9
"Furred-up" service replaced	—
Drainage—	
New lengths drain and/or drainage systems provided	9
Defective drains re-laid	5
New inspection chambers constructed	8
Defective inspection chamber covers replaced	3
Ventilation shafts repaired	2
Cesspools cleansed	6
New gullies provided	9
Obstructed drains released	15
Septic tanks or percolating beds built or improved	1
Closet Accommodation —	
New W.C. compartments built	4
New W.C. pedestals fixed	6
Conversion to W.C.s.	—
W.C. cisterns repaired and/or new provided	7
Miscellaneous repairs to closet compartments	11
New pail closets built and conversion to pails	—
Privy Middens and pails dis-used	2
Washing Accommodation—	
New wash-houses built	1
Dilapidated coppers repaired	4
New furnace pans fixed	2
Ashes Accommodation—	
New ash bins provided	22
Ashpits dis-used	5

INTERNAL.

Walls—	
Totally or in part re-plastered	31
Ceilings—	
Totally or in part re-plastered	33
Windows—	
Defectiive frames repaired or replaced	40
Windows re-corded	10
Doors—	
Repaired, replaced and/or weather boards fixed	18
Floors—	
Boarded floors replaced and/or repaired	8
Defective skirtings replaced	3
Solid floors relaid	16
Staircases—	
Woodwork repaired	3
Fire Ranges and Grates—	
Repaired and/or new fixed	23
Sinks—	
New sinks provided and fixed	8
New wastes fitted or existing repaired	12
Bathrooms—	
New provided	3

FOOD PREPARING PREMISES AND SHOPS

Walls, ceilings, floors, windows and doors, utensils, fittings, etc., cleansed, repaired or renewed	16
New making-up rooms provided	—
Washing basins, soaps, towels, hot and cold water, provided or arrangements improved	1
New sanitary accommodation provided or existing improved	1
Display of Goods in unsuitable places corrected	—
Other miscellaneous matters	7

LICENSED PREMISES.

Bar Sink/s and hot water provided	1
Improved sanitary accommodation	—
New sanitary accommodation	—

MISCELLANEOUS

Rat infested premises cleared by Rodent Operative	—
Offensive accumulations removed	2
Keeping of animals nuisances abated	2
Other nuisances abated	7